

29 January 2023

RE: numerous bills

2. [S.B. No. 73](#) (COMM) AN ACT ESTABLISHING LOCAL REPRESENTATION ON THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL FOR LOCAL PROJECTS. (ENV)
3. [S.B. No. 122](#) (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPLANTING OF TREES IN PUBLIC AREAS CLEARED BY UTILITY COMPANIES. (ENV)
4. [S.B. No. 894](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE. (ENV)
6. [S.B. No. 896](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING TREE REMOVAL ON PROPERTIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. (ENV)
8. [H.B. No. 6479](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE RESILIENCY FUNDS AND PROJECTS. (ENV)
9. [H.B. No. 6480](#) (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP ON THE RESTORATION OF EEL GRASS. (ENV)
12. [H.B. No. 6483](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPEN SPACE AND WATERSHED LAND ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM. (ENV)
13. [H.B. No. 6484](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN HARVESTING OF HORSESHOE CRABS. (ENV)
16. [H.B. No. 6487](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. (ENV)

Dear Co-chairs and members, Environment Committee:

We all are well aware that we live in a time of environmental crisis. The Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) expects five degrees Fahrenheit increased temperature, twenty inches increased sea level, and more intense storms punctuating extended droughts. [[Phase 1 Report](#)] These changes are expected by 2050. They are the consequence of existing atmospheric conditions. They are, in other words, pretty much already baked into our future. You, with the Connecticut General Assembly, have the opportunity to plan realistically for that future. You have a number of constructive bills before you.

Please:

- Protect our trees. Keeping healthy trees in place significantly helps with pollution control, temperature control, water absorption and management, and carbon dioxide removal. They help with the medical and emotional well-being of people and many living things. They deserve our care. Removing them needlessly is costly and an uncompensated taking from the common good. Trees alone can't solve the climate crisis, but they are an essential part of that effort.
- Protect our wetlands. They're essential, like trees, to our well-being. Perhaps even more essential, if there were possible.
- Protect Long Island Sound. It defines us and our well-being.

- Ensure that Connecticut's numerous agencies share a unified policy toward protecting our environment.
- Ensure that "development" does not further compromise our future.
- Especially ensure that our responses do not continue our long pattern of environmental inequity.
- Encourage realistic planning for resilience. Plans for undergrounding electrical wiring are the realistic response to climate change.

Thank you all for your long hours and hard work.

Sincerely,  
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